

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled) without prejudice.
2. (Cancelled) without prejudice.
3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, A strip dispenser comprising a container for holding at least one movable strip, a lever connected to the container, an extension connected to the lever and extending into the container, a tip of the extension having a friction surface for engaging the at least one strip within the container, whereby lifting the lever moves the tip of the extension in the container and slides the at least one movable strip outward from the container, wherein the lever is a cover and is pivoted on a hinge connected to the container,
wherein the extension extends in a direction from the hinge opposite a direction of the lever.
4. (Currently amended) A strip dispenser comprising a container for holding at least one movable strip, a lever connected to the container, an extension connected to the lever and extending into the container, a tip of the extension having a friction surface for engaging the at least one strip within the container, whereby moving the lever moves the tip of the extension in the container and slides the at least one movable strip outward from the container, wherein the friction surface is on a side of the extension opposite from the top of the lever and not another side of the extension, wherein the lever is a cover and is pivoted on a hinge connected to the container, and wherein the extension extends in a direction from the hinge opposite a direction of the lever.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a dispensing opening at one end of the container and a closure connected to the lever for moving with the lever and closing the opening when the lever is aligned with the container, and for uncovering the opening when an end of the lever is moved away from the container.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the lever is a lid on an upper surface of the container for opening at least a part of the upper surface of the container.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the extension is flexible and has a relatively slippery surface on a side opposite the friction surface for sliding over a next adjacent strip.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the at least one strip comprises a stack of aligned strips, and wherein a top strip in the stack slides along a next adjacent strip outward through the opening when the lever is moved.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the dispensing opening extends substantially over an entire end of the container.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the lever comprises a lid hinged at one end to a central portion of a top of the container and extending outward to the opening in the end of the container for exposing at least a portion of the stack of strips in the container.

11. – 14. (Cancelled) without prejudice.

15. (Currently amended) A method of dispensing a strip, comprising providing a container and a dispensing opening in the container, placing at least one strip in the container, providing a lever on the container, providing an extension connected to the lever and

extending into the container, engaging the at least one strip with a friction surface on a tip of an the extension extending into the container, moving a the lever connected to the container, opening the dispensing opening, moving the extension and the tip of the extension in the direction of the dispensing opening, and moving the at least one strip toward the dispensing opening and exposing the at least one strip through the opening, grasping and removing the exposed strip, moving the lever and the extension in an opposite direction and sliding a side of the tip opposite the friction surface over the at least one strip and closing the dispensing opening, wherein the lever is a cover and is pivoted on a hinge connected to the container, and wherein the extension extends in a direction from the hinge opposite a direction of the lever.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein initiating of the moving of the lever moves the tip of the extension inward in the container and toward the at least one strip, and wherein completing the moving of the lever and extension in the opposite direction moves the tip of the extension away from a next adjacent at least one strip.

17. (Currently amended) A method of dispensing a strip, comprising providing a container and a dispensing opening in the container, placing at least one strip in the container, engaging the at least one strip with a friction surface on a tip of an extension extending into the container, moving a lever connected to the container, opening the dispensing opening, moving the extension and the tip of the extension in the direction of the dispensing opening, and moving the at least one strip toward the dispensing opening and exposing the at least one strip through the opening, grasping and removing the exposed strip, moving the lever and the extension in an opposite direction and sliding a side of the tip opposite the friction surface over the at least one strip and closing the dispensing opening, further comprising opening and closing the dispensing

opening by moving the lever and the extension, wherein the lever is a cover and is pivoted on a hinge connected to the container, and wherein the extension extends into the container in a direction opposite a direction of the lever.

18.-19. (Cancelled) without prejudice.

20. (Currently amended) A strip dispensing method, comprising providing a container holding several strips, moving providing a cover on the container, wherein the cover is a lever and is pivoted on a hinge connected to the container, moving providing an extension connected to the cover and extending into the container in a direction opposite a direction of the lever, providing a tip of the extension with a friction surface for engaging an upper strip within the container, whereby lifting the cover moves the extension tip in the container and slides the upper strip outward through an end opening in the container.